

### Appropriations FY2010

On April 3, 2009 I submitted to the House Appropriations Committee 108 Congressionally directed spending requests, or earmark requests, for FY2010. All of the requests I made of the committee are listed by bill, below this description of the appropriations process.

Community and business leaders who make up the Sixth Congressional District submitted 197 projects for consideration that they valued at more than \$493 million. Wilson is requesting \$62,374,150 from the Appropriations committee.

I used a set of criteria to evaluate and select projects for submission. First and foremost, the project had to have a direct impact on the Sixth Congressional District. Any projects requested from outside the district or projects that would not have a direct impact on the district were automatically excluded from consideration. In addition, each project I selected had to meet at least one of the following key criteria set by me and my staff:

- The project promotes economic development.
- The project creates jobs.
- The project promotes citizen's health and safety.
- The project promotes one of the Congressman's three key priorities: healthcare, energy independence, education.

In an effort to provide complete transparency and to increase public understanding of the process, here are the steps that make up the process:

1. Invite applications from localities, nonprofits, and businesses that wish to request earmarked funds.
2. Evaluate requested projects based on the criteria outlined above. Eliminate projects that do not meet those basic requirements.
3. Based on past support, similar requests, and likelihood of project funding, evaluate the total amount requested and determine a reasonable number to submit to the Appropriations Committee.
4. Post earmark requests on [www.charliewilson.house.gov](http://www.charliewilson.house.gov). The website listing must include an explanation of what the project would do for the 6th District and why it's a good use of taxpayers' money.

5. Submit requests to the Appropriations Committee electronically. Each submission must include a letter certifying that I will not benefit financially from the earmarks.

6. As each of the 12 appropriations bills comes up for a vote in the House, they will be accompanied by a list identifying each earmark in the bill and which member requested it. For FY2010 I have requested funding in 9 of the 12 bills.

7. After each appropriations bill passes the House, it is sent to the Senate to be voted upon.

8. If the Senate-passed bill differs from the House-passed bill, the two versions are sent to a conference committee. Once a compromise bill emerges from conference, it must be voted on in both the House and the Senate.

9. Once the conference version of the bill passes both bodies, it is sent to the President for his signature.

10. I then notify the local project coordinators and the community which projects will be funded under the new appropriations law.

11. The money is appropriated to the various federal agencies responsible for distributing the funding. The agencies typically contact the local project coordinators who are to be awarded earmarked funds. The agencies inform those project coordinators that there are forms to be filed and federal guidelines to be met in order to receive the amount of the earmarked funds.

### **The Projects I requested for FY2010 are listed by bill in the following links:**

- [Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies](#)
- [Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies](#)
- [Defense](#)
- [Energy and Water Development](#)
- [Financial Services and General Government](#)
- [Homeland Security](#)
- [Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies](#)
- [Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies](#)
- [Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies](#)